

vasl **وقتی** Newsletter Online

Issue No. 17, October - January '10

Happy New Year!

Welcome to a new edition, in a new year, in a new decade, of the VASL newsletter! We hope that the new year heralds a very productive and prolific year for you - it has certainly been a very busy quarter for us here at VASL. A number of very high profile events kept us busy throughout the last few months - the 5th Taaza Tareen residency, showcasing some very talented young artists, the fantastic performance conducted by Tazeen Qayyum and Faisal Anwar titled "Tableau Vivant", which VASL hosted in conjunction with the Alliance Francaise.

It has been a very fruitful 2009 for Pakistani Fine Art, as the world finally recognises the impact of our local art scene. In the wake of Hanging Fire, our artists are exhibiting internationally on global venues as you'll see: several have been nominated for the

Sovereign Asian Art Prize, and quite a few exhibitions are going on showcasing the development of art that is Pakistani.

New developments have also happened internally in VASL as two upcoming young artists, Hajra Haider and Haider Ali Jan have joined VASL as working members to help coordinate our projects and events. We always welcome new, passionate talent to help expand our services, making us better able to bring them to you.

Wishing you a very fruitful 2010,

Adeela Suleman, Ahmed Ansari, Hajra Haider, Haider Ali Jan, Samar Faisal Zia, Nadia Niazi, Ammad Tahir, Hassan Mustafa & Owais A. Khan

Send your news and feedback at vasnewsletter@gmail.com

Opportunities

Call for Entries: Art Box International presents Big Bang. Box!

Everything has a point of origin. Art Box International began with a nucleus of artists banding together through a series of random connections. "Big Bang. Box!" celebrates the expansion of this nucleus to a global network. Art Box launches its premiere reveal in Tokyo, Chicago, and Lagos in June 2010.

To apply please go to:
<http://www.artboxinternational.com/event/current>

Call for Entries: "Creative Divergents"

Creative Divergents announces a call to artists for an online exhibition with a \$500 award (USD). Creative Divergents promotes an appreciation for people willing to push boundaries in creative ways, the desire to bring more attention to works that may not fit neatly into easily defined categories and a belief in the significance of dialogue. Open to anyone, internationally. All media and subjects welcome. Multiple submissions accepted. The deadline is June 15th, 2010.

For full details and to apply please go to:
<http://creativdivergents.com>

Call for Entries: 1st Annual World Canvas Awards: "2 for 1"

World Canvas Awards is a global online art show that promotes contemporary artists to the world's leading art galleries, curators, publishers and auction houses. The international art community will pay tribute to the most outstanding paintings of the year at the 1st Annual World Canvas Awards Winners & Nominee Show, presented live online September 2010.

For full details of the award and to apply please go to:
<http://www.canvasawards.com/howto.php>

2nd. Penang International Print Exhibition 2010

The organizing committee would like to invite artist printmakers from around the world to submit their work for the exhibition. For more information please visit:
<http://www.usm.my/art/penangprint2010/>

VASL News

VASL in collaboration with the Alliance Francaise presents Tableau Vivant: "A Feast In Exile" 28 - 29 October, 2009

Tableau Vivant was the outcome of one of our teaching residencies with artists Faisal Anwar and Tazeen Qayyum. Faisal and Tazeen spent 4 weeks with the 3rd year Fine art students at the Fine Art department at Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture.

The Tableau was a unique performance in which we have recreated an 18th century miniature painting of Kangra School, in the style of a Tableau Vivant. Tableau Vivant literally means 'living picture' and was quite popular in 19th century European art, where artists and actors would create live versions of famous paintings. The selected painting was the 'The Pandavas in Drupad's Court', from a series of works depicting the mythology of Drupadi and the 5 Pandava brothers from the Mahabharata.

Drupadi, a devoted disciple of Lord Krishna, was the daughter of King Drupad and the shared wife of the 5 Pandava brothers. In this particular painting we see that the brothers are at the end of their 12 year exile, have revealed themselves and take leave from their host, King Drupad. The entire performance, hosted at the Alliance Francaise, was created and performed by the 3rd year Fine Arts students of IVS and directed by Tazeen Qayyum and Faisal Anwar, with live music specially composed by Babar Sheikh, Rizwan-ullah Khan, Jasir Abro and Aziz Kazi.

For more information please go to:
<http://www.vaslar.org/events/folder.2009-09-19.4348943593/folder.2009-10-24.1962847248/document.2009-10-24.6214006956>

Khayal Khana at Shanaakht 9-11 November, 2009

Khayal Khana, under the banner of the Vasl Artists' Collective, carried out three public art activities at the Shanaakht Festival, from 9-11 November 2009 at the Imperial Hall, 2 Talwar Karachi. These activities were interactive and focused on identity and patriotism.

"Arzo-e-Watan", one of the carried out projects, gave a chance to children and adults to write down their wishes for their beloved country, whereas the project "What makes you Pakistani?" celebrated the different cultures and costumes that exist in Pakistan while posing in front of the National monuments. Both children and adults both took part in these along with "Hamari Awami Sawari", which was based on the idea of completing the cityscape rickshaw picture with the use of colourful thumbtacks.

All three activities lasted for the duration of three days, the working team consisted of Vasl coordinator Adeela Suleman, and Khayal Khana group members Salman Hassan, Nadia Niazi, Syed Ammad Tahir, as well as Vasl administrators Hassan Mustafa and Owais A. Khan.

For full details please go to:
<http://www.vaslar.org/educational%20outreach/folder.2009-04-29.8805798154/folder.2009-11-21.0163525584/document.2009-11-21.0508668055>

Artists in the Network & Beyond \ In Diaspora

5 Pakistani Artists nominated as 2009 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Finalists June - September 2009

Sajjad Ahmed, Faiza Butt, Ayaz Jokhio, Farida Batoool, and Raju G.C have been nominated as finalists for the 2009 Sovereign Asian Art Prize. All finalists will be posted on the Sovereign Art Foundations website, giving works a wider audience and allowing people to vote for their favorite artist. The prestigious first prize of US\$25,000 cash will be announced at the start of the finalists' exhibition. To vote for your nomination to win first prize, please visit:

To vote for your nomination to win first prize, please visit:
<http://www.sovereignartfoundation.com/art-prizes/asia/gallery/?year=2009>

Humaira Abid at the Bolivia Art Biennale, and "Lullaby", a moving solo show 5th August 2009

Humaira Abid exhibited her work at the Bolivia Art Biennale, from 14 to 18 November 2009, in La Paz, Bolivia. The Biennale was a space of promotion, diffusion, reflection and integration through contemporary art that approach Bolivia to artistic contemporary processes that develop around the world, motivating the artistic national production and generating dynamics of visual art in its different expressions.

Her moving solo show "Lullaby" exhibited at the Rohtas Art Gallery, Lahore, from 5th to 14th November 2009, the Khas Art Gallery, Islamabad, from the 17th to 26th November 2009, and the Showcase Art Gallery, Dubai, from 9th December 2009 to 9th January, 2010. The exhibition showcased vibrant contemporary creative illustrations of day-to-day ordinary things, focusing on issues of gender sensitivity and frailty of human existence.

For more information on Humaira Abid's projects, please visit:
<http://www.humaira.com.pk/projects.html>

New Art From Pakistan: 8 Pakistani Artists at the Thomas Erben Gallery, NY 3rd - 28th August 2009

Thomas Erben Gallery, in collaboration with Grey Noise, Lahore, is exhibiting an exciting group of emerging artists from Pakistan: Ayesha Jatoi, Amna Hashim, Nadia Khwaja, Murad Khan Mumtaz, Noor Ali Chagani, Ismet Khawaja and Seema Nusrat, while also including distinguished professor and activist Lala Rukh (b. 1948, Lahore), whose pared down aesthetics have influenced many of the artists and historically anchor this exhibition. The exhibition addresses the question of art's ability to respond to the added current sociopolitical unrest for artists working in Pakistan.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.thomaserben.com/index.php?startPage.html>

Call for Applications: Abraaj Capital Art Prize 2011

The Abraaj Capital Art Prize was founded by Abraaj Capital in 2008 and is the only art prize specifically for the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA). It is unique as a prize in rewarding proposals rather than a previous body of work, and encourages collaboration between international curators and artists from the MENASA. The aim of the prize is to empower potential and give often under-represented contemporary artists the resources to further develop their talent. Artists working in any medium, of any age and experience are welcome to apply for the third edition of the Abraaj Capital Art Prize. Winning submissions will be unveiled at Art Dubai in March 2011.

For more information and to apply please visit:
<http://www.artdubai.ae/abraaj/home.php>

Call for Submissions: 9th Lessedra World Art Print Annual

The Lessedra Gallery is now accepting submissions for their 9th World Art Print exhibition: an international print annual with the premise that no art form has broader implications in contemporary society than that of the print. The aim is to gather and exhibit contemporary art print works from all over the world and to contribute to the contacts and the exchange between artists, art lovers and collectors and to stimulate the research into paper, inks, and other materials used in printmaking. The selected work will also be published in a catalogue. Entries are accepted from January to March 31st 2010.

For more information please visit
Further details and conditions can be found at:
<http://www.lessedra.com/entry.php?id=conditions>

Residency Programs at ArtSway, UK

ArtSway is the contemporary visual arts venue in the New Forest in Hampshire, South East England. ArtSway's residency programme offers visual artists a professional fee, critical and practical support for the development of new work, exhibition and distribution opportunities.

For full details of the award and to apply please go to:
[http://www.resarts.org/index.php?id=20&L=es%2F%2Fmodules%2Fxfsec&tx_newloginbox_pi3\[showUid\]=531](http://www.resarts.org/index.php?id=20&L=es%2F%2Fmodules%2Fxfsec&tx_newloginbox_pi3[showUid]=531)

VASL in collaboration with the VM Art Gallery hosts Taaza Tareen V 23 October - 26th November, 2009

It was a first for VASL as it hosted the second annual Taaza Tareen in 2009 during the month of November in 2009. The participants in Taaza Tareen V were Amna Tariq (INCA), Haider Ali Jan (BNU), Anum Babar (BNU), Fahim Rao (CIAC), and Sausan Saulat, a decidedly more mature batch of artists than the usual freshmen who apply every year. Hosted in collaboration with the VM Art Gallery, which graciously gave the participants studio spaces to work in, the month long workshop culminated in an exhibition at the gallery. The artists also conducted an outreach at the Ida Rieu to work with deaf and dumb kids from the 31st October to 2nd November.

For more information please visit:
http://www.vaslar.org/residencies/folder.2009-10-24.0946484633/index_html

A Slice of the World: Screenings by Kathrin Becker 12th - 14th October, 2009

Kathrin Becker came to Pakistan and screened a selection of video works from the n.b.k video forums, the oldest video archive in ermany, at the VM Art Gallery, Koel Gallery, and the Indus Valley School of Art & Architecture. The films were from all over the world and ranged from short films to video art to performances.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.vaslar.org/educational%20outreach/folder.2009-04-29.8805798154/folder.2009-10-12.9435796460/document.2009-10-14.4077920045>

Build: An International Residency with Maria Benjamin & Sana Mustafa Ali 15 December, 2009 - 15 January, 2010

Starting in December and through the new year VASL conducted an international residency inviting the UK based video artist Maria Benjamin to come to Pakistan to work and document the culture. Teaming up wit local artist Sana Mustafa Ali, Maria documented the aftermath of the Ashura blasts, the results of which were exhibited at the IVS Gallery on the 15th of January.

For more information please visit
<http://www.vaslar.org/residencies/folder.2010-01-16.8206867896/folder.2010-01-16.8730515942/document.2010-01-16.1354300335>

360EXtEndEd: An Ongoing Project by Faisal Anwar 30th October, 2009

Faisal Anwar gave a presentation at the Canvas Gallery on 360EXtended, his latest project. 360EXtEndEd is a multi-platform project, which explores a city's evolution, through a website where people can log on and share their stories about their city.

To participate in this exciting project please visit:
<http://www.360extended.com/>

Rashid Rana curates "Resemble Reassemble" at the Devi Art Foundation 14th August 2009

The Devi Art Foundation will be showcasing the works of 45 contemporary Pakistani artists from the Lekha and Anupam Poddar Collection, from the 18th of January to the 10th of May 2010. The show will be curated by Rashid Rana. The exhibition explores how the artworks can be viewed outside the context of particular identities and how the resemblances in the works when juxtaposed and reassembled, produce meanings which are universally true in 'visual thinking'.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.deviartfoundation.org/>

Hamrah Abbas - Everyday Miracles (Extended) at the San Francisco Art Institute & REDCAT 26th June 2009

Curated by SFAI's Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs Hou Hanru, in collaboration with Clara Kim at REDCAT in Los Angeles, Everyday Miracles (Extended) brings together the work of seven women artists—Hamra Abbas, Ringo Bunoan, Chen Hui-chiao, Shilpa Gupta, Kan Xuan, Minouk Lim, and Jewyio Rhi!—and creates a dialogue about the cultural diversity and historical difference effected by colonialism and modernization in China, India, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

Hamra Abbas's work explores ideas of cultural ownership and alienation as well as the creative and destructive energies of love and war. Working in a variety of mediums, including video, installation and sculpture, she mixes the old with the new, the culturally specific with the universal. At SFAI, Abbas presents Love Yourself; at REDCAT, she presents God Grows on Trees.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.redcat.org/exhibition/everyday-miracles-extended>

"Where Three Dreams Cross": Rashid Rana & Bani Abidi showing at the Whitechapel Gallery, UK October 2009

This landmark exhibition gives an inside view of how modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh have been shaped through the lens of their photographers. From the days when the first Indian-run photographic studios were established in the 19th century, this exhibition tells the story of photography's development in the subcontinent with over 400 works that have been brought together for the first time. The exhibition is arranged over five themes with works selected from the last 150 years, and will show from 21st January to 11th April, 2010.

Bani Abidi will also be holding an artist's talk at the Whitechapel Gallery, in association with Green Cardamom to discuss her work and current projects on the 21st February 2010.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/where-three-dreams-cross-150-years-of-photography-from-india-pakistan-and-bangladesh>

In the memory of Asim Butt (1978 - 2010)



Life often plays strange games on human existence, and we are left wondering how or why things turn out the way they did. Asim Butt was an asset to the entire art community in Pakistan, not only because of his several contributions like the Karachi chapter of Stuckist Art Movement, but also because of the endless knowledge this one person held in his mind and his physical experiences. He is not amongst us anymore, but his work will live forever and his work will stay in our hearts and minds for as long as we live. Asim was as free as a bird.

Ammad Tahir

The fine artist Asim Butt passed away on the 15th of January 2010. On behalf of VASL we send all our condolences to his family and loved ones.



The Tableau Vivant performance
The Alliance Francaise, Karachi



Khayal Khana stall
The Shanaakht Festival



Taaza Tareen V Exhibition,
VM Art Gallery



Work produced during Taaza Tareen V,
Anticlockwise: Unum Babar, Haider Ali Jan,
Amna Tariq, Sausan Saulat, Fahim Rao



Work produced during the VASL residency,
Sana Mustafa Ali



Work produced during the VASL residency,
Maria Benjamin

Resources & Links

SubContinentArt.com

<http://www.subcontinentart.com/>

Nigah: Arts & Culture Magazine for the Subcontinent

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nigaah-The-Arts-and-Culture-Magazine-for-the-Subcontinent/123898405917>

Asim Butt on the Stuckist Movement Website

<http://www.stuckism.com/Butt/Index.html>

ArtIndustri: The Largest Art Portal on the Net

<http://www.artindustri.com/>

Galleries & Exhibitions

Timeline

IVS Gallery

5th Faculty Show
20th - 30th January 2010
IVSAA Faculty

Rohtas Gallery

2 Person Show
21st - 30th January 2010
Roohi Ahmed & Sumeira Tazeen

"After Images"

5th - 9th January, 2010

Samina Mansuri

Grey Noise Gallery

Good Looking
06th December 2009 - 20th January 2010
Various Artists

Canvas Gallery

The Primordial Dot
19th - 28th January 2010
Shireen Kamran

Recent Drawings

7th - 17th January 2010

Mohammed Zeeshan

Koel Gallery

The Root, the Ground & the Air
21st January - 6th February 2010
Aqeel Solangi

Poppy Seed Gallery

"Dear Diary"
16th December 2009 - 8th January 2010
Various Artists

VM Art Gallery

8th Emerging Talent Show
20th January - 2nd February 2010
Various Artists

"Two Together"

8th - 22nd November 2010

Akram Spaul & Muhammad Amir

"Not Made for Each Other"

3rd - 14th November 2010

Ahmed Ali Manganhar